

**REMARKS**

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 5, and 9 to more clearly define the features of those claims. The amendments are supported by the specification (see, e.g., paragraph 050).

Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-14, and 16 are currently pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for indefiniteness.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-9, and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Huang et al., A General Purpose Virtual Collaboration Room, IEEE, pages 1-10, 10/1999 (Huang) in view of Pirri et al., A Java applet-based virtual environment as a useable interface to distributed and collaborative application on the Internet, IEEE 6/1999 (Pirri). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

At the outset, Applicant respectfully points out that the Examiner appears to be using the gist of the claims and improperly ignoring the express language of claim 1. Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that M.P.E.P. 2131 states "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)."

On page 6 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner appears to allege that Huang discloses "a virtual object space ... providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects including an associations and transactions functionality for relating the plurality of objects and interaction between the plurality of objects, the associations and transactions functionality configured to provide transactions using a two-phase commit to handle different memory copies of object states of the plurality of objects, a distribution

functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space, and a persistency functionality for maintaining persistency of the plurality of objects.” Applicant disagrees because a carefully scrutiny of Huang reveals that it does not disclose what the Examiner alleges.

Instead, on page 7, right column, Huang merely discloses an object existing state table, object spatial information, and object attribute information rather than “an associations and transactions functionality for relating the plurality of objects and interaction between the plurality of objects.” Specifically, Huang states:

has various states and attributes. A plethora of objects (with associated features) in the workspace can easily confuse users making decisions or actions difficult. Sufficient awareness information about each object is a basis to support responsive and effective interactions among users in their collaborations so as to improve the quality of collaborations. In the VCR, object awareness information supported includes

- *Object existing state*  
When an object is created, it is placed in the subspace (visible space) of its creator. In order to draw all users' attention, birth of the object is presented by a peep sound and blinking the object name in the object list. When an object is destroyed, the object name is immediately deleted from the object list with a peep sound.
- *Object spatial information*  
Users, of course, can see the objects in the visible subspace. In the Object Panel, there is a list of object names with their ID numbers. If a user clicks *Current*, the user can see a list of the objects in the current visible subspace. If a user clicks *All*, the user can see a list of all objects including the objects in other invisible subspaces.
- *Object attribute information*  
An object has several attributes (owner, sharing

Huang, page 7, right column. But these disclosure by Huang cannot constitute, under any reasonable and fair interpretation of Huang, “an associations and transactions functionality

for relating the plurality of objects and interaction between the plurality of objects,” much less one that is “configured to provide transactions using a two-phase commit to handle different memory copies of object states of the plurality of objects,” as recited in amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Huang fails to disclose or suggest at least the following features of amended claim 1: “a virtual object space providing access to a plurality of objects, each object having a set of functionality and being identifiable by a unique identifier provided by the virtual object space, and providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects including an associations and transactions functionality for relating the plurality of objects and interaction between the plurality of objects, ***the associations and transactions functionality configured to provide transactions using a two-phase commit to handle different memory copies of object states of the plurality of objects***, a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space, and a persistency functionality for maintaining persistency of the plurality of objects, the generic object functionally including a first interface for applications using the plurality of objects and a second interface for a\_service deploying the plurality of objects, the service providing an adapter to map the unique identifier to the plurality of objects and to objects internal to the service, the access being a virtual access provided using the unique identifier without physically storing the plurality of objects at the virtual object space.” Emphasis added. Moreover, although Pirri discloses the use of applets, Pirri does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Huang. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over Huang and Pirri, whether those references are taken alone or in combination, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claim 1 and claims 4 and 13, at least by reason of their dependency from independent claim 1, should be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 9, although of different scope, include features similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. Claims 6-8 depend from claim 5. Claims 12, 14, and 16 depend from claim 9. For at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 5-9, 12, 14, and 16 should be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

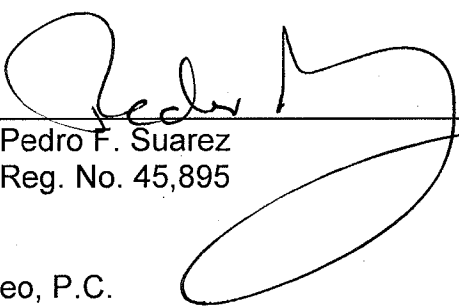
Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner. Applicant submits that the proposed amendments do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner. Finally, Applicant submits that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner continue to dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. No fee is believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-162/2003P00269US.

Respectfully submitted,

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